THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (e) There have been reports of various secessionist leaders and organisations in Jammu and Kashmir having received large sums of money from diverse channels and sources in contravention of law, including reports about the receipt of funds for the Shrine at Chrar-e-Sharief. Notices have so far been issued to 46 individuals and 24 organisations under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA). Action on these notices, as also for violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange and Regulation (Act) (FERA) and other relevant laws is being taken by the concerned agencies.

It will not be in the interest of ongoing inquiries/ investigations to disclose more details at this stage.

[Translation]

Transport Duty

5144. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the transport duty is being charged from the Rajasthan State Government to carry the nitrogen gas upto the plant which is used as inert gas for the Ramgarh Gas Thermal Power Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken so far to fix the prices of gas at reasonable rate for this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Transportation charges are payable for the natural gas being supplied to the Ramgarh Thermal Power Plant of which nitrogen gas is a component.

(c) The Ramgarh Power Plant is entitled to a reduction in the gas price on account of lower calorific value. A discount of 15% has been allowed in addition to the above reduction.

[English]

Land Oustees

5145. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether NHPC acquired agriculture land for the setting up of Loktak Power project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the compensation has been paid and rehabilitation of such land oustees has been completed; and

(d) if so, the criteria adopted by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Agricultural land to the extent of 244.18 acres was acquired between 1971 to 1979 through the Government of Manipur under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894 for setting up of Loktak Power project.

(c) and (d) Full compensation as decided by the Government of Manipur was paid to be owners of the affected land by the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation.

[Translation]

Representation of Muslims

5146. SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps being taken by the Government to give adequate representation to Muslims in Government services and the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution provide, *inter-alia*, for equality of opportunity to all citizens in matters relating to employment under the State. Various measures for improving recruitment of minorities, including Muslims, are envisaged under the 15-Point Programme for welfare of minorities. Some of the salient follow-up steps initiated in this regard are :—

(i) nomination of a member belonging to minorities on Selection Committees/Boards for making recruitment to Group 'C'/'D' posts;

(ii) arrangements for imparting pre-recruitment training to the minorities;

(iii) giving wide publicity to vacancies in Government sector in Urdu newspapers;

(iv) monitoring the intake of minority community in recruitment;

(v) undertaking special drives in minority areas for recruitment to Central Police forces; and

(vi) inclusion of certain Muslim communities in the list of Other Backward Classes for whom reservation in Govt. jobs has been provided.